



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

January 11, 2005

PRESS RELEASE

Today, the State Ethics Commission and Compass Group USA, Inc. ("Compass Group") entered into the attached Stipulation and Order. The Stipulation and Order fully resolves a complaint dated December 2, 2004 (Docket No. 2004-6) filed by Ethics Commission Principal Attorney Alice M. Sexton against Compass Group alleging the provision of gifts to a state employee in violation of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials.

Compass Group is the parent company of two unincorporated divisions, Chartwells and Canteen. Both of these divisions were doing business with Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) during May, June and July, 2004. Additionally, during that time Chartwells was involved in the negotiation of a new food service contract with CCSU. The complaint alleges that Compass, through one or more of its divisions, provided a state employee with entrée to one or more golf events over the course of the spring and summer of 2004. The complaint further alleges that the state employee did not reimburse Compass for his admission to said golf events.

As a result of the Stipulation and Order, Compass Group is required to pay a civil penalty of \$20,000 to the State Ethics Commission. This civil penalty reflects the recent increase in the Ethics Commission's civil penalty authority for conduct occurring on or after July 1, 2004 from a maximum of \$2,000 per violation to a maximum of \$10,000 per violation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL:

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Or

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State Ethics Commission
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DOCKET NUMBER 2004-6	:	STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
	:	
IN THE MATTER OF A	:	20 TRINITY STREET
	:	
COMPLAINT AGAINST	:	HARTFORD, CT 06106
	:	
COMPASS GROUP USA, INC.	:	JANUARY 7, 2005

STIPULATION AND ORDER


Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-177(c), the State Ethics Commission ("Commission") and Compass Group USA, Inc. ("the Respondent") agree to settle this matter in the manner described below:

1. WHEREAS, on December 2, 2004, the Commission filed a Complaint against the Respondent alleging that it violated the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79 *et seq.*
2. WHEREAS, the Respondent denies that it violated the Code of Ethics and states that it believed in good faith that its provision of the benefits conferred upon the state employee named in the Complaint in relation to charitable golf tournaments met the requirements of the exception to the definition of the term gift in Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79(e)(14) for admission to a charitable or civic events. Despite this good faith belief, the Respondent wishes to resolve this matter by Stipulation.
3. WHEREAS, the Commission finds that the Respondent violated the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79 *et seq.* as alleged in the Complaint.
4. WHEREAS, the parties agree that this Stipulation constitutes the settlement of a disputed matter. It shall not be deemed an admission of wrongdoing on the part of the Respondent.
5. WHEREAS, the Respondent waives any rights it may have under Conn. Gen Stat. §§1-93, 1-93a, 1-98 and 1-80, including the right to a hearing or any appeal in this case, and agrees with the Commission to an informal disposition of this matter.

6. WHEREAS, this Stipulation and Order concludes the Commission's investigation into the conduct of the Respondent.


NOW THEREFORE, and in consideration of the above, pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §4-177(c), the State Ethics Commission enters, and the Respondent agrees to, the following orders in lieu of any other action regarding this matter:

1. The Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of \$20,000 to the Ethics Commission within thirty (30) days of the signing of this Stipulation and Order by all parties;
2. The Respondent shall reasonably cooperate with the Ethics Commission in any investigations now pending or which may be brought concerning any of the eight matters referenced in the Complaint (or similar golf events for which it was a sponsor during the preceding three years), and said cooperation shall be made known by the Ethics Commission at the request of the Respondent to any contracting authority of the State of Connecticut; and
3. The Respondent shall henceforth comply with the Codes of Ethics for Public Officials.



The Respondent
Compass Group USA, Inc.
By: Kristin E. Briotte
Its: Assistant Secretary

1/7/05
Date



State Ethics Commission
By: Its ^{vice-}Chairperson
~~Hugh Macgill~~
Gary H. Collins

1/11/05
Date